

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 14 have been amended. It is believed that the amended claims are supported by the application as originally filed. For example, support can be found on pages 7, 9, and 11 of the specification and in FIGS. 1, 3, 5, and 8 of the drawings. Consequently, claims 1-32 are currently pending and under consideration.

Independent Claim 1

In the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over Zatlin (US 4,887,824; herein "Zatlin"). However, Zatlin fails to disclose, either expressly or inherently, all of the features recited in amended claim 1. For instance, Zatlin fails to disclose "such that when said castor contacts a surface said castor is restrained from rotating about said pivot axis until at least said certain torque is applied" as recited in amended claim 1. It should be recognized in Zatlin the axles "freely swivel" about the mounting means when the wheels contact a surface (claim 1). In Zatlin the castor is not restrained from rotating since the axles or wheels are "free to swivel" when a load is applied, i.e., when the wheels contact a surface (Col. 1, ll. 22-27). As such in Zatlin, there is no castor that contacts a surface and is restrained from rotating about a pivot axis "until at least said certain torque is applied". For these and other reasons, it is believed that claim 1 and its dependent claims are not anticipated by Zatlin.

In the Office Action, claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Zatlin. In addition to the reasons given above for the patentability of amended independent claim 1, it is believed that dependent claim 9 is also allowable. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 along with its respective dependent claims are allowable over the references of record and request that the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Independent Claim 14

In the Office Action, claim 14 was rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over Zatlin. However, Zatlin fails to disclose, either expressly or inherently, all of the features recited in amended claim 14. For instance, Zatlin fails to disclose "wherein said castor contacting a surface is restrained

from rotating about said pivot axis until at least said certain torque is applied” as recited in amended claim 14. As mentioned previously, in Zatlin the axles “freely swivel” about the mounting means when the wheels contact a surface (claim 1). In Zatlin the castor is not restrained from rotating since the axles or wheels are “free to swivel” when a load is applied, i.e., when the wheels contact a surface (Col. 1, ll. 22-27). As such in Zatlin, there is no castor that contacts a surface and is restrained from rotating about a pivot axis “until at least said certain torque is applied”.

In the Office Action, claims 17-19 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Zatlin. In addition to the reasons given above for the patentability of amended independent claim 14, it is believed that dependent claims 17, 18 and 19 are also allowable. For this and other reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 14 along with its respective dependent claims are allowable over the references of record and request that the rejection of claims 17, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

It should be understood that the above remarks are not intended to provide an exhaustive basis for patentability or concede the basis for the rejections in the Office Action, but are simply provided to overcome the rejections made in the Office Action in the most expedient fashion.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited. If after reviewing this amendment the Examiner feels that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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